In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for use in the production of ethylene oxide, obtained by depositing a silver-containing catalytic component on a carrier ~~set for in claim 1~~ obtained by adding an aluminum compound, a silicon compound, and an alkali metal compound to a low-alkali content α-alumina powder having an alkali metal content in the range of 1 - 70 m.mols/kg of powder and calcining the resultant mixture, the aluminum compound content as reduced to aluminum ~~being~~ in the range of 0 - 3 mols/kg of carrier, the silicon compound content as reduced to silicon in the range of 0.01 - 2 mols/kg of carrier, and the alkali metal content as reduced to alkali metal in the range of 0.01 - 2 mols/kg of carrier respectively in said carrier.

14. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the amount of silver deposited is in the range of 1 - 30 wt.% based on the weight of said catalyst.

15. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 14, wherein ~~an~~ alkali metal is deposited as a reaction promoting agent in an amount in the range of 0.001 - 2 wt.%, based on the weight of the catalyst.

16. (Original) A catalyst according to claim 15, wherein said alkali metal is cesium or rubidium.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of a catalyst to be used for the production of ethylene oxide, ~~characterized~~ by depositing a silver-containing catalytic component on a carrier ~~set for in claim 1~~ obtained by adding an aluminum compound, a silicon compound, and an alkali metal compound to a low-alkali content α-alumina powder having an alkali metal content in the range of 1 - 70 m.mols/kg of powder and calcining the resultant mixture, the aluminum compound content as reduced to aluminum ~~being~~ in the range of 0 - 3 mols/kg of carrier, the silicon compound content as reduced to silicon in the range of 0.01 - 2 mols/kg of carrier, and the alkali metal content as reduced to alkali metal in the range of 0.01 - 2 mols/kg of carrier respectively in said carrier; and then calcining the resultant composite.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein said calcinations ~~is effected in the current of~~ in the presence of an inert gas at a temperature in the range of 400 - 700°C. are conducted

19. (New) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the atomic ratio of said alkali metal content in said powder/said alkali metal content in said carrier is in the range of 0.0001 - 0.8.

20. (New) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein said alkali metal content in said α-alumina is in the range of 3 - 30 m.mol/kg of powder.

21. (New) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the secondary particle average particle diameter of said α-alumina is in the range of 50 - 100 μm of powder.

22. (New) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the BET specific surface area of said α-alumina is in the range of 1 - 4 m^2/g.

23. (New) A catalyst according to claim 13, wherein said aluminum compound content as reduced to aluminum is in the range of 0.01 - 2 mols/kg of carrier and said alkali metal compound content in the range of 0.02 - 0.5 mol/kg of carrier in said carrier.